

VII. LOSSES, GAINS, AND A NEW HOME: 1953-1972

Ernest W. Wohletz was, to the time of this writing, the only dean of the College of Forestry not from "outside." A B.S. and M.F. graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Ernie Wohletz—or "Smokey Joe," if you please—was a 16-year veteran of the college's faculty, and had almost literally "done it all."

Hired in 1937 to replace another veteran (and alumnus) Art Sowder, Wohletz took on courses in forest mensuration, forest economics, and general forestry, and assisted in forest management and logging courses. He was also handed responsibility for the then school's equipment storeroom and two-truck motor pool. Ten weeks

each summer he dedicated to the McCall Summer Camp, teaching mensuration and, in the early years, constructing tent frames and kitchen facilities and the now venerable lodge.

As a minor point of interest, Ernest Wohletz was the second man to become the college's dean without benefit of a Ph.D. degree. Francis Garner Miller was the first. Nowadays, perhaps unfortunately—considering the records of these two men—it would be well-nigh impossible to attain a deanship without a doctorate.

When Wohletz undertook his responsibilities in the fall of 1953, college faculty numbered 17, including experiment station staff, forest nursery staff, and extension forestry. Enrollment boasted 186 undergraduates and 15 graduate students.

And the School of Forestry, as of July 1, 1953, had become officially the College of Forestry.

Alumni faculty members at the beginning of the Wohletz era accounted for slightly more than one-third of the faculty rolls. Senior among this group in length of service were Franklin H. (Frank) Pitkin (BS, MF - Forestry, '38, '58) and Albert W. (Whiz) Slipp (MF - Forestry, '39), both of whom joined the staff almost immediately after graduation—Pitkin as nursery manager and Slipp as researcher, primarily in white pine blister rust. Kenneth E. (Ken) Hungerford (BS - Forest Mgt., '38), who had signed on as part-time wildlife instructor in 1942, had earned his wildlife M.S. and Ph.D. and had been a full-time faculty member since 1946. Vernon (Vern) Burlison (BS, MS - Forestry, '43, '49) joined the college in 1946 as assistant extension forester under Vernon (also Vern) Ravenscroft (BS - Forestry, '43). With Ravenscroft's departure to private business, Burlison became extension forester, a responsibility he discharged with distinction until his retirement in 1978.



Dean Wohletz shows how it's done; barbecue, 1950s.

Making a name for himself among McCall summer campers was Robert H. (Pappy) Seale (MS - Forestry, '42), who had been named instructor in 1949 and by 1953 was assistant professor and assistant to the dean. A young man who would also become well known to summer camp sufferers had come aboard in 1952 as radioisotope technician. Frederic C. (Fred) Johnson (MS - Forestry, '52) is currently professor of forest resources and a widely known forest botanist.

As of this writing, Burlison, Seale, and Hungerford are professors emeriti living in Moscow. Regrettably, "Whiz" Slipp died in 1959 following a protracted illness. And Frank Pitkin, who through his abilities and character had become almost an institution in himself, died unexpectedly of a heart attack shortly after his retirement in 1979.

Among the non-alumni faculty members were several men whose length of service and dedication to the college would make their names inextricably linked with the institution. They were Paul D. Dalke, professor of wildlife management



Albert W. (Whiz) Slipp—alumnus, staff, faculty, 1939-1959.

and leader of the Idaho Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, who served from 1947 to 1967; Edwin W. (Ed) Tisdale, professor of range management from 1947 to 1975; and Lee A. Sharp, professor of range management and chairman of the Department of Range Resources (1974-82), who remains as active in 1984 as he was when he hired on in 1949. Special note should be made of Merrill E. (Doc) Deters—known for his pipe and *Wall Street Journal*, as well as for his professional abilities. Deters had served for almost 13 years when Wohletz assumed the deanship; he would serve for another 18 years before his retirement in 1971. Once director of the University Experimental Forest, "Doc" Deters now manages his own tree farm outside of Moscow.

One other individual—neither a graduate of the college nor an active college faculty member—must be mentioned. Dean Emeritus Dwight S. Jeffers was enjoying his retirement in an entirely characteristic way—working hard. Referring to himself as "D.S. (Jeff) Jeffers—Class of '53," Jeffers contributed the following to Wohletz' first alumni newsletter (December 1, 1953):

" . . . I am the proud possessor of a certificate showing that I am a member of the alumni association of the University of Idaho. And since the new Dean, "Ernie," has asked me for a note to be in the alum letter, I am happy to say a word . . . All summer, since July one, I have been in western Washington, making a snag survey for the state Division of Forestry. The work has taken me into all of the counties west of the Cascades. Although at first the hiking was a little strenuous, after 18 years spent mostly at a desk, soon I came to enjoy it, and now I can say, I have had a GREAT summer—no committees, no telephone calls, no budgets, just my job."

At the time of his writing the above, Dwight S. Jeffers was 70 years old. He would remain almost continually active until his death at 96 years old in 1980.

It could perhaps be said that with the beginning of Wohletz' deanship came the maturing of the college. Not old—certainly not so far as institutions go—but no longer a fledgling, the college had reached its forties. The active young men of its early days were young no longer, and, inevit-

ably, the college began to lose its children. In 1953, the College of Forestry lost two of its "trailblazers." Lloyd A. Fenn, the last surviving member of the inaugural class of '11, and Clarence E. Favre, the college's first master's graduate ('15) died that year. Both men had been recognized by dedications in the *Idaho Forester*: Fenn in 1926, Favre in 1941. As a matter of interest, Fenn's father, Major Frank A. Fenn, early supervisor of the Bitterroot National Forest, had been likewise recognized in the 1920 *Forester*, making the two the only father-son combination so honored.

Lloyd Fenn's career veered away from his early forestry education, though he never lost his interest in forestry or his concern for Idaho's forests. Employed as a forest ranger for five years following his graduation, he subsequently enrolled in the University of Montana Law School, taking his degree in 1917. After a brief residence in California, he returned to Idaho where he purchased a newspaper, the *Kooskia Mountaineer*. His outspoken interest in local education moved the town's school board to offer him the superintendency of schools. Fenn accepted, with the stipulation that he not be inhibited from pursuing his political interests. He served for ten years in the state legislature, and in 1938 and 1943 served as chief clerk in the House of Representatives. At the time of his death, he was a member of the Idaho State Tax Commission. Fenn consistently stood for progressive forestry legislation and, indeed, was instrumental in the enactment of the Idaho Forestry Law.

Clarence Favre remained in forestry and through a near 40-year career became one of the college's most successful foresters-alumni. At the time of his retirement in 1950, Favre was supervisor of the Toiyabe National Forest, headquartered in Reno, a position he more-or-less chose himself as a pre-retirement post. Previous to the Nevada assignment, he'd been for eight years Region 4 assistant regional forester for range management, working out of Ogden.

After receiving his M.S. in 1915, Favre rose quickly through the Forest Service ranks. By 1919 he was supervisor of the Humboldt National Forest. In 1922 he transferred to Wyoming to assume the same position on the Wyoming (now Bridger) National Forest, headquartered in Kemmerer, Wyoming. He left Wyoming for Ogden in 1936.



Clarence Favre; photo from *Forester* dedication, 1941.

Wherever he was posted, Favre gained respect and admiration for his professional and personal qualities. Upon his leaving Wyoming, the *Kemmerer Gazette* declared that "... Kemmerer is proud in that it could have had him as long as it has. He has been one of the outstanding men of civic affairs of the city, constantly alert as to those things which might be for the betterment of our little city."

The college and the forestry profession lost another good friend the following year. On June 2, 1954, Dr. Ernest E. Hubert died suddenly of a heart attack. Hubert had been associated with the college since 1925, twice serving as acting dean—first during Dean Miller's sabbatical in 1932 and again following Miller's death two years later. In 1935, Hubert left the college for private employment, but returned to the university in 1950 as lecturer and research pathologist, primarily on white pine pole blight. During his first tenure at the college, he wrote and published *An Outline of Forest Pathology* (1931), which became a standard text in forestry institution classrooms.

Wohletz eulogized Hubert as “. . . an indefatigable worker and one who carried out every assignment to the highest degree possible. His loyalty, friendship and sound advice cannot be replaced.” The university dedicated its 59th commencement to “Dr. Ernest Everett Hubert, lecturer, forest pathologist, and true scientist.”



**E.E. Hubert, professor, 1925-1935,
1950-1954.**

Time inevitably brings changes. And other sorts of changes had been occurring on the campus and in the college. The Forestry Building (Morrill Hall) had been renovated. All the classrooms had been spruced up and equipped with fluorescent lighting. The building itself had been equipped with a lobby featuring aluminum doors—“a good smoking place during adverse weather,” wrote Wohletz. The “I” tower was now topped with a television antenna, and the Student Union boasted a television set in the lobby.

Enter the Women

And 1953 saw the beginnings of another, more significant change for the college. The freshman class of 1953-54 (“Regeneration,” says the *Forester*) included Barbara Rupers (then Vars), the daughter of former faculty member Alden B. Hatch (faculty 1936-39; BS - Forestry, '28) and sister of alumni Huntington T. Hatch (BS - Forest Mgt.-Res., '55).

Certainly, from time to time, women had enrolled in the College of Forestry. Alumnus E.W.

Renshaw (BS - Forestry, '25) when interviewed in 1964, remembered a “girl forester” in his days. Recalled Renshaw, “She met with so much opposition from Dean Miller, who felt the profession of forestry was no place for a woman, that she quit before graduation.” Over the years, a few other women enrolled in the College of Forestry.

Thus, the presence of a woman in the Forestry freshman class was by no means unique. But Barbara Rupers was—she graduated. An honors student, Rupers dropped out in 1956, resumed her studies in 1961, and, in 1963, became the first woman to receive a degree (Wood Utilization) from the University of Idaho College of Forestry.



**Barbara Rupers (BS - Wood Util., '63); the first woman
to graduate from the college. 1963 photo.**

Wrote Wohletz, “not only is she the only woman who has graduated from the college, but she is the only one who has been the wife of two

alumni of the college, the sister of another, and the daughter of a former faculty member.”

The following year would see the enrollment of two more young women, Leslie Betts (now Wemhoff, BS - Forest Res.-Sci., '68), Nancy Nelson (now Eller, BS - Forest Mgt.-Res., '68). They, too, would graduate, but they did something Rupers was not allowed to do: They attended Summer Camp (1965)—the first women to enter what, for 25 years, had been exclusively a male domain. In 1964-'65, Betts provided the college's history with another first. She served as one of the “Flunkies” (so reads the caption) on the *Idaho Forester* staff, again, the first woman to have done so. And, in yet another bit of history, Betts, Nelson, and classmate Lilas Rawson (now Talley, BS - Forest Mgt.-Res., '68) became, apparently, the first women to enjoy the heretofore male ritual of the Steak Fry.

The *Forester* for 1964 tells us that they even competed in logger sports events at the Fry: “They didn't turn in the best times, but they showed plenty of spirit . . .” Their presence at the 1963 Steak Fry seems to have been more than tolerated; indeed, they apparently set a precedent for succeeding “Frys.” Wrote 1965 *Forester* associate editor Dean Huber (BS - Wood Util., '67), “The 1964 Steak Fry made history. For the first time, wives and dates were invited to participate in the previously all-forester affair. (Last year three girl foresters made their debut at the Fry.) The women who joined in the contests, eating and

Plenty of Jobs and Few Women

I graduated in 1959 with a B.S. in Forest Management. That wasn't enough so I returned in 1966 for an M.F. degree in 1967. I was summer camp teaching assistant the summer of 1966. Between 1959 and 1967, there wasn't much change. The instructors were mostly the same and the curriculum also wasn't much different. Most students majored in either forest or range management because that was where the jobs were. All of us knew we would get a job as soon as we graduated. A few majored in wildlife or fisheries management and took a chance on a job immediately after graduation.

There were no women in the college. I remember a woman underclassman, but I don't believe she graduated. I remember the Dean of Women didn't think it “proper” for her to attend summer camp. However, there was one woman at summer camp in 1966 who had to be one of the first to graduate.

—Ned N. Pence (BS, MF - Forest Mgt., '59, '67)

Editor's Note: Lilas Rawson indeed attended summer camp in 1966; however, Leslie Betts and Nancy Nelson preceded her in 1965. Barbara Rupers is no doubt the woman underclassman Mr. Pence recalls. She did not graduate with her beginning class ('57), but did return to graduate in 1963, the first woman to do so from the college.

talking, may have changed the annual Steak Fry, however, for the general atmosphere seemed somewhat less like the brawny bull-logger and more like the civilized forester. The coarse language and intense competition gave way to explanations of



Idaho Forester staff, 1965. Center—first woman staffer Leslie Betts. Others—front row from left: Howard Wallace, Ed Wood, Dean Huber, Gary Lambson. Back row from left: Bill Pickell, Keith Johnson, Russ Moore, Betts, Russ Liddell, Phil Ericson, Jim Carmichael.

forest resource management, silviculture, and wildlife habitat (the birds and the bees, etc.).”

One wonders if “wives and dates,” mindful that “girl foresters” were now attending the Steak Frys, did not somehow persuade husbands and boy-friends to admit “extracurricular” women to the affair.

Since 1963, many women have graduated from the college. Indeed, nowadays, their ab-

sence, not their presence, would be considered noteworthy. Recently, one young woman, Chris Vetter, even spent a season on the student logging crew—with no special treatment.

Few of the college’s women alumni are aware of Barbara Rupers, yet all owe her something of a debt. Her determination and abilities broke some long hardened molds and reshaped the perception of women within the College of Forestry.

“Not Quite Like a Rose”

Some things, however, don’t change. One of these is the Forestry student’s capacity for fun. And along that line, yet another first is associated with the early fifties.

It seems that in preceding years, the Forester’s Ball, though popular, had been anything but profitable. Determined at least to break even, 1954 ball Dance Committee chairman Bob Emmons (BS - Wildlife Mgt., '56) and his minions decided that imaginative publicity might be just the strategy to bring the ball into the black. Along with

Argonaut articles and assorted posters, they came up with a few new twists.

All foresters wore backwoods dress for the week preceding the ball. The faculty, too, wore plaid shirts, hard hats, and boots. Those ignoring the “dress-down” rule were briefly confined in a “haywire hoosegow” located in front of Morrill Hall. All of this drew campus-wide attention. But the stunt that attracted the most attention involved a stout rope and a pile of But let 1954 *Forester* reporter Ralph Kizer (BS - Forest Mgt.-Res., '55) tell the tale:



Tug O' War, 1955. The Aggies Win.

Probably the most spectacular publicity stunt was a tug-of-war between the Foresters and the Aggies which was made even more spectacular when the sodbusters were pulled through a stinking pile of barnyard manure. About seventy farmers came out smelling not quite like a rose; whereas Joe Helle [BS, MF - Range Mgt., '54 '59], President of the Associated Foresters and first on the rope, merely got a shoe full.

This first Forester-Aggie Tug-of-War was not, however, without its controversies. Apparently anyone who could grab a piece of rope could participate, and the Aggies mustered more manpower than the Foresters. Then, hardly had the tug began when the line parted, and the Aggies accused the Foresters of supplying inadequate rope. A 4-inch hawser was obtained and lengths of the original rope were tied to its ends. The war resumed; the outcome looked bleak for the Foresters. But Providence intervened; the "farmer's knot" in the Aggie end came loose, evening the odds. The rest is history.



1953: Aggies lose; it's not the rye they're comin' through.

The Foresters proudly claimed the tug-of-war trophy, a hickory handle with an axe-head on one end and pitchfork tines on the other. And, as previously agreed upon, the Aggies cleaned the Student Union following the Forester's Ball.



It would be four years before the Foresters would again claim the trophy. The Aggies triumphed in '55, '56, '57—but apparently had more hands on the line. In 1958, the two clubs agreed to limit each team to 35 tuggers. The Foresters won.

After that, except for one or two fitful efforts at revival, the Forester-Aggie Tug-of-War vanished. But although the event is gone, surely for the Foresters who participated, the odor lingers on.

Rising Enrollment—A Problem?

Meanwhile, back at the college itself, enrollment, which, of course, had risen rapidly during the immediate post-war years, continued to climb, to the consternation of Dean Wohletz. For 1952, enrollment was 141; it jumped to 186 in 1953—with 15 graduate students (“the largest graduate student enrollment in history,” said Wohletz). The next year ushered in “one of the highest increases of any college on campus”: 219 with 24 graduate students. Of those 243 students of 1954-55, only 36 graduated, leaving a large reservoir to be joined by fall 1955 enrollees. In late June 1955, Wohletz expected about 100 new students for the fall, and joined to that expectation the fervent

hope “. . . that we do not get any more than the 24 graduate students we had this year.”

In November he reported that temperatures had plummeted and enrollment had soared. “Snow every day,” he wrote, “and temperatures have been as low as 15° below The weather has caused us to get far behind in tree lifting at the nursery. Poor old Pitkin is pulling his hair every day.”

As to enrollment, rather than the expected 100, 130 new students appeared, for a 30 percent increase in new students and a total enrollment jump of a hefty 20 percent. Fortunately for Wohletz’ peace of mind, graduate enrollment actually dropped a bit, to 21 students.

Chowing down at the Steak Fry, 1955.



Also that year, in an attempt to keep enrollment levels reasonable and student quality high, the college limited out-of-state enrollment to students in the upper two-thirds of their graduating classes (by fall of 1956, that percentage will have shrunk to the upper one-half of graduating classes). Indeed, Wohletz and his contemporaries confronted a problem the diametric opposite of that confronting current administrators. Wrote Wohletz, "A larger proportion of high school graduates are now trying to enter universities. This fact, along with a greater number of eligible students, poses a real problem for all universities."

Moreover, he declared, "It is planned to limit total enrollment in the next few years to around 300 students."

However, if rapidly increasing new enrollment posed a problem for the college, the employment opportunities awaiting new natural resources professionals did not. In a near understatement, Wohletz wrote, "Employment opportunities have been extremely good during the past few years. This year I am convinced that we could have placed at least 100 more students if they had been available."

The following year, 1956, job opportunities were equally rosy; indeed, said Wohletz, "They appear almost unlimited." By 1961, however, the 10 or 12-year influx nationally of Forestry graduates into the marketplace had taken its toll. In June of that year, Wohletz wrote, "The job opportunities this year are probably about as scarce as any that we have experienced in the past 15 or 20 years Only one senior has been able to obtain employment in the lumber industry." Several others, he went on to say, had managed to latch on to temporary jobs.

Through those years, however, enrollment continued to climb, by 1960 surpassing the 300 limit for which Wohletz devoutly wished. Unfortunately, rising enrollment was not paced by rising staff salaries, a constant source of concern for the dean. In July 1956, he reports that "salary differentials" had drawn Everett Ellis, a valued faculty member (Wood Utilization) since 1946, to the University of Michigan, and William K. (Bill) Ferrell, a Forest Management faculty member since 1948, to Oregon State.

"The loss of these two outstanding individuals is a tough one to take," wrote Wohletz. "We only

hope that we can attract someone of equal calibre. I believe that I have Professor Ellis' position filled."

He did, ". . . a man from Maine whom we know will do an outstanding job." The "man from Maine" was John P. Howe, who, over the next 23 years would become one of the college's best known and most respected faculty members. Professor Emeritus since 1979, Howe served as the original chairman of the Forestry Building Committee and began the continuing tradition of the Howe Pig Roast, a college-wide get-together sponsored annually by the Forest Products Department faculty.

As to a replacement for Ferrell, Wohletz didn't have far to look. On his staff was a young man and alumnus who'd been engaged full-time in research for the past four years. Frederic D. (Fred) Johnson (MF - Forestry, '52) was given Ferrell's previous teaching responsibilities on a temporary basis, and, because of his competence in fulfilling those responsibilities, was added to the permanent faculty the following year. After over 30 years of association with the college, Johnson, now a full professor, remains an active (a gross understatement) faculty member.



Alumnus and faculty member since 1952, Fred Johnson instructs a habitat typing workshop, 1976.

The fifties also saw the graduations of other alumni who would move into, and remain in to this writing, the faculty ranks. Minoru (Min) Hironaka (MS - Range, '54), now professor of range resources, signed on in 1954 as assistant range ecologist. Arland Hofstrand (BS, MS - Wood

Util., '50, '52), currently professor of forest products, taught as an acting instructor in 1951-52. After a stint at the Oregon Forest Research Center, he returned to the college in 1959. Theodore

C. (Ted) Bjornn (MS - Fishery Res., '57), professor of fishery resources, taught as an acting instructor in the second semester of 1956-57. He left the college after that year, but returned in 1966.



Alumni and faculty members Minoru (Min) Hironaka (left) and Arland Hofstrand. 1983 photos.

Alums Moving On

Meanwhile, off the campus, other College of Forestry alumni were getting on with their lives and careers. A sampling follows:

1955 - Charles Connaughton (BS - Forestry, '28) has been transferred from Regional Forester, Southern Region to Regional Forester, Region 5; Fred Kennedy (BS - Range Mgt., '29) moves from Chief, Division of Range Management of the Rocky Mountain Region to Regional Forester, Region 3; William Lucas (BS - Range Mgt., '39) has been named Superintendent of the Custer National Forest, Montana. Among the younger men, George Zappettini (MS - Range Mgt., '52) is Nevada State Forester. Stewart Bandborg (MS - Wildlife Mgt., '51) is with the National Wildlife Federation in Washington, D.C.; his classmate, Elwood Bizeau (MS - Wildlife Mgt., '51), works for the Idaho State Fish and Game Department.

1956 - Stanley Jepson (BS, MF - Forest Mgt., '54, '55) is associate editor of the *Timberman*,

at Denver; an earlier graduate, John Chohlis (BS - Range Mgt., '37) fills a similar position as field editor of the *Western Livestock Journal*; Joe Allegretti (BS - Wood Util., '41) heads the Product Application and Research Department of Masonite Corporation. George Jemison (BS - Forestry, '31) is Director of the California Forest and Range Experiment Station; Joe Pechanac (BS - Forestry, '32) is Director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, North Carolina.

1957 - Bernard Anderson (MS - Forest Mgt., '28) is named Chief of Personnel for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Rome; Ralph D. Kizer (BS - Forest Mgt., '56) is transferred to the Palouse District of the St. Joe National Forest; Harold Heady (BS - Range Mgt., '38) teaches in the Range Management Program at the University of California, Berkeley.



Forestry alums get together at the 1956 S.A.F. meeting in Memphis. Counterclockwise from Dean Wohletz (head of table, left): Nelson Jeffers (son of Dwight Jeffers), '39; Mel Carlson, '41; Keith Lange, '40; Ed Woods (non-grad); Bernard Anderson, '28; Milton Edwards, '35; Marvin Marshall, '37; Art Nelson, Jr., '38; Howard Shaw, '36; Arlie Toole, '27; George Garin, '29; Selden Tinsely, '37; Harry Camp (non-grad); Charles Connaughton, '28; Fred Kennedy, '29; George Jemison, '31; Russell Cunningham, '17; J.H. Kraemer, '34; Art Sowder, '25; Ted Lacher, '50; Ed Wieshuegel, '28; Joe Pechanec, '32; Mark Lehrbas, '27.

Losses and Gains

The College of Forestry was growing; college alumni were making names for themselves in their professions. Progress was the watchword—on and off campus. Unfortunately, in the late fifties, thoughts of progress and growth were put aside for awhile on two occasions to recognize college losses.

Virgil Pratt, the cheerfully busy and only fisheries professor, died January 22, 1957. He had been a faculty member since 1950. In dedicating the 1957 *Forester* to Virgil Pratt, the staff called him "one of the finest professors and friends the forestry students at Idaho have ever had He was known as a man who would go out of his way to help anyone who called on him."



Virgil Pratt, faculty member, 1950-1957.

For the same unfortunate reason, the 1960 *Forester* was dedicated to Albert W. (Whiz) Slipp, who died December 10, 1959, following a protracted illness. An alumnus (MS - Forest Path., '39) and faculty member since graduation, Slipp

joined the faculty in 1939 as researcher, primarily in white pine blister rust. Despite almost overwhelming physical distress, Slipp continued his teaching and research duties through the course of his illness. Wrote John Howe in the 1960 *Forester*, "Each member of the faculty felt a personal loss at the time of Professor Slipp's death In spite of poor health, Whiz was a cheerful, courageous co-worker and friend."

To help fill the void left by the loss of Pratt, the college enlisted the aid of a promising young graduate student whom, the previous year, Pratt had declared ". . . our outstanding candidate for the master's degree in fishery management." Theodore C. (Ted) Bjornn (MS - Fishery Mgt., '57) was drafted as acting instructor for the second semester of 1956-57. Following service as a U.S. Army officer and having completed his Ph.D. at Utah State University, Bjornn returned to UI in 1966 and, as this is being written, is professor of fishery resources and leader of the Cooperative Fishery Research Unit.

Following Bjornn's departure in 1957, the college signed on a permanent fishery faculty member, Craig MacPhee. Instrumental in the establishment of the Cooperative Fishery Research Unit in 1963 and internationally known for his research, particularly on squawfish toxins, Craig MacPhee retired in 1983 and currently lives on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Toward the Sixties

Inevitably, an institution moves on. The fifties drew to an end with several significant developments. Dean Wohletz was particularly pleased in 1957 that the legislature had seen fit to bestow upon the college the largest budget in the college's history, allowing raises for faculty and staff. At the same time, that portion of the research budget derived from cooperating public and private agencies increased significantly. These increases allowed the uninterrupted progress of the 35 research projects then underway and made possible posting Fred Johnson to the permanent faculty list, adding Franklin A. (Frank) Schoeffler (BS - Forestry, '40) as nurseryman, and hiring Howard Loewenstein, now professor of forest resources, to the research staff as forest soils specialist.

A second development in 1957 was the approval of a memorandum of understanding wherein if the university furnished "forty acres of good Palouse soil" for a seed orchard and two acres of ground for buildings and nursery, the Forest Service would develop on this property a forest genetics center. The primary objective of the center at that time was to develop a blister rust-resistant white pine. One of the two Forest Service men originally posted to the center was Richard T. Bingham (BS - Forestry, '40; MS - Forest Path., '42).

The genetics center would lead to a much more important development.

Five years after the center's inception, UI President Theophilus Reed Bailey, director of the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, Ogden; and Dean Wohletz broke the ground for the new Forest Service Research Laboratory located on Highway 95 just north of the Forest Genetics Center. On May 23, 1963, the laboratory was dedicated.

"Now," wrote Wohletz, "with the research efforts of the College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Sciences and the United States Forest Service placed side by side under similar working conditions and advantages, cooperation and intensification of forest research for the benefit of

the people of the region should be enhanced immeasurably Combining the new Forest Service facilities and staff with the staff and facilities of the Forest, Wildlife and Range Experiment Station will create one of the truly finest forest research centers that can be found."

Now the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station Forestry Sciences Laboratory, the center employs more than 30 research and support staff conducting research across a spectrum of natural resources concerns. Alumni currently among the station's research personnel are Nicholas Crookston (MS - Forest Res., '77), Dennis Ferguson (MS - Forest Res., '79), Russell Graham (MS, PhD - Forest Res., '77, '81), John (Jack) King (PhD - Hydrology, '78), Raphael (Ray) Steinhoff (BS - Forest Mgt., '59), Jonalea Rose Tonn (BS, MS - Forest Mgt., '74, '76), and John Woo (MS - Forest Path., '67). Retired from the lab are Charles Bingham and Charles (Chuck) Wellner (BS, MF - Forest Mgt., '33, '38).

Another development occurred in 1957 as a result of the federal Soil Bank Program. To meet the strictures of the program, Idaho farmers and agencies had begun to request trees at a rate surpassing the production capacity of the nursery. In consequence, Forestry obtained from the College of Agriculture an additional 20 acres east of town on the Troy Highway. The Forest Service and the State Forestry Department contributed together



David Wenny (left), alumnus, faculty member, and UI Forest Nursery manager looks over the work of the Nursery staff.

some \$80,000 for nursery development. Originally set up to provide bare root seedlings, the nursery now—under the direction of David Wenny (PhD - Forest Res., '82)—grows, sells, and distributes containerized conifer seedlings and a variety of hardwoods for windbreaks and shelterbelts, including the fast-growing UI poplar hybrid now becoming well-known nationally.

And finally, in the December 1958 newsletter, Wohletz passed along to alumni a “major development in teaching.” Wrote Wohletz, “The College of Forestry; along with Physical, Biological, and Social Science of the College of Letters and Science; and Agricultural Chemistry and Entomology of the College of Agriculture were given the go-ahead sign to start offering the Ph.D. program in the fall of 1959.” The first official word of the Ph.D. program appeared in the University Catalog for 1959-61: “Programs of study in Forestry Sciences leading to the Ph.D. degree are also offered. These are at present available in the areas of Forest, Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.”

In August 1960, Wohletz proudly announced that “the College of Forestry at the University of Idaho was the only forestry school in the country to be granted Nat'l Defense Fellowships. These were granted primarily to assist in developing our newly created programs for the doctorate degree in forestry, range, wildlife and fisheries management. This program became effective in September, 1959, and we have high hopes of really building some thing that is needed and worthwhile.”

Chosen as National Defense Fellows for 1959-60 were John D. Hunt (BS, MF - Forest Mgt., '59, '61) and Paul Edgerton, a graduate of the University of Arizona. Their counterparts for 1960-61 were Donald L. Hauxwell (BS - Forest Mgt., '60) and Chalon Harris (BS - Wildlife Mgt., '60). Of these original four, only Hauxwell continued through, being awarded his Ph.D. in Forest Science in 1967, having studied under Professor Howard Loewenstein.

However, the college's first Ph.D. graduate—a fact that doesn't seem to be noted in any of the college's previous publications—was none of the original four, but Ben Frances Roche, Jr. (PhD - Range Mgt., '65). From Pullman, Washington, Roche took B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of California ('51) and Washington State

University ('60), respectively. At the time he enrolled in the UI graduate program, he was extension weed specialist with the Agriculture Extension Service at Washington State University. His committee chairman was Professor Ed Tisdale. Ben Roche is currently professor of forestry and range management at Washington State University.



Ben Roche (PhD - Range Mgt., '65), the college's first doctoral graduate. Photo courtesy of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics, Washington State University.